ON TWO NEW RACES OF PALÆORNIS EUPATRIA (LINN.).

By C. Boden Kloss, M.B.O.U.

When visiting Eastern Siam last November I was not successful in obtaining any specimens of the large red-shouldered Paroquet, but my attention was drawn to it through seeing two or three examples in the possession of residents there; so when I returned to Bangkok and found that Mr. W. J. F. Williamson's collectors had been more fortunate than myself at Lat Bua Kao,* I obtained the loan of his series for examination, and have also been lent a set of Indian and Burmese birds by Dr. N. Annandale and the authorities of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

I propose to treat all these large birds with red patches on the wing-coverts as races of *Palæornis eupatria* (Linn.), of Ceylon, of which the first subspecies to be described was therefore *P. e. nipalensis* Hodgs., of Nepal, which differs in larger size, broader black mandibular band, more blue-washed occiput, nape and cheeks; and in having the feet yellowish, not olive.

Leaving out of account Peninsular Indian birds, to which various names (mostly unaccompanied by adequate descriptions) were applied by Hutton (Stray Feathers I, pp. 337-8), the next race to be discriminated was *P. e. indoburmanica* (Hume, *op. cit.* V. (1878), p. 457).

In separating this subspecies from *P. e. nipalensis*, Hume—having become a "splitter" for the nonce—yet deliberately included two races, diagnosed by himself, under the one name, "because there must be a limit to splitting up of this form". To the logical ornithologist who accepts subspecies, there can be no artificial or sentimental limit to the number of forms recognised and named, so long as adequate characters for differentiating them exist. Hume's "portmanteau" name must therefore be confined to birds from the first locality cited—in this case fortunately those which are directly described—and *indoburmanica* thus applies to birds from the Sikkim Terai (typical locality) and also to those of Bhutan (*fide* Salvadori, Cat.

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* About 30 miles west of Korat, E. Siam.

Birds XX, p. 439). They have no tinge of glaucous blue on occiput, nape or cheeks.

The other race indicated, but not named by Hume for the trivial reason quoted, differs in having a rather longer tail, a narrower black mandibular stripe and the base of the throat, below the black area, distinctly yellow. This I propose to call

Palæornis eupatria avensis, subsp. nov.

Type :—Adult male collected at Bhamo, Upper Burma, by Dr. John Anderson on 18th January 1875. Iris " white bluish speckled."

Tail, 342 ; Wing, 217 ; Tarsus, 21 ; Bill :—culmen, 38 ; height of maxilla at base, 22 ; length of edge from base to tip, 30 mm.

It closely resembles *P. e. magnirostris* Ball, from the Andamans, but has a smaller bill and perhaps a yellower throat, while it lacks the narrow sky-blue neck-ring of that race.

P. e. avensis occurs also in Cachar (*fide* Hume, S. F., V, p. 21) ; in the Irawadi division (*id. op. cit.*, IV, p. 39) ; and in Central Tenasserim (*id. op. cit.* VI, p. 117).

Of Siamese birds I have before me from Mr. Williamson :—

1♂ ad., 1♂ subad., 2♀ ad.,	Lat Bua Kao, E. Siam.	Sept. 1916.
1♂ ad.	Sawankalok, Central Siam.	Jan. 1916.
1♀ ad.	Sukothai, Central Siam.	Jan. 1916.

And an immature female of unknown provenance, purchased in Bangkok and given me by H. R. H. the Prince of Chumporn.

These birds differ from *P. e. avensis* in having the black of the throat still more reduced ; the sides of the throat next the black decidedly yellowish, not green ; the lower throat more intensely yellow ; the red wing-patch much shorter (40 mm. against 60 mm.) and in having the occiput, nape and sides of neck markedly washed with glaucous blue ("cadet gray", Ridgway). For this I suggest the name

Palæornis eupatria siamensis, subsp. nov.

Type :—Adult male obtained at Lat Bua Kao, E. Siam, on 19th September 1916 by Mr. W. J. F. Williamson's collector.

Iris, lemon yellow ; maxilla, blood red with yellowish tip ; mandible, orange red ; feet, raw sienna.

Length, 491; tail, 272; wing, 203; tarsus, 17; bill:—culmen, 35; height of maxilla at base, 19; length of edge from base to tip, 26.5 mm.

The neck-ring, which scarcely joins the black of throat, is a beautiful "geranium pink", whereas that of *avensis*, in the examples examined, is "strawberry pink"; and the wing-patch is dull crimson ("neutral red").

Females lack the neck-ring and black throat, have very little yellow on the lower throat and possess smaller wing-patches than the males, but their irides, bills and feet are of the same colour. They seem but little smaller, and an adult from the typical locality measures:—

Length, 469; tail, 260; wing, 199; tarsus, 18; bill, 32, 19 and 25 mm.

The wing-patches of the Sukothai and Bangkok (?)* females are much paler than the others, but this is a matter on which more evidence is desirable.

Speaking in a systematic sense, and not venturing to indicate the original home of the species, the Siamese birds seem to be going back to *P. e. eupatria*. As with so many species that are found in the Eastern Himalayas, through India to Ceylon and through Indo-China to Malaya, the Southern forms, though developing geographically along entirely different lines, eventually attain very much the same status as regards reduced size. The dimensions of *P. e. siamensis* are practically those of the Ceylon bird, but it lacks any trace of a black line between bill and eye, has the occiput suffused with blue-grey, the lower throat yellow, the lesser under wing-coverts pale bluish green and the feet yellowish, not dark.

The Saigon specimen recorded as *P. e. eupatria* by Salvadori in the Catalogue of Birds was in all probability a member of the present race, as also the six examples from Cambodia, cited as *indoburmanica* by Oustalet who states (Nouv. Arch. du Mus. (4), 1, p. 223):—"Un de ces Oiseaux, un mâle, offre sur la nuque, comme un spécimen appartenant au Musée britannique et provenant egalement du Cambodge, une teinte grise au-dessus du collier rose; mais cette teinte ne remonte pas sur les joues comme chez le *P. nipalensis*."

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* The bird is not found in Bangkok. Eds.